

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An automatic analyzer comprising means for moving  
down a pipeting probe to immerse into liquid in a first  
container, means for transferring liquid from said first  
5 container to a second container by said pipeting probe,  
and means for measuring the content of said second  
container, which further comprises means for detecting  
the height of said first container: wherein said  
automatic analyzer moves said pipetting probe down to a  
10 position which is calculated and determined according to  
the result of detection by said detecting means,  
temporarily stops said probe there, and further moves  
down said probe to immerse said probe into the liquid in  
said first container.

15 2. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1,  
wherein said means for detecting the height of said first  
container judges the type of said container and  
determines the height of said container according to the  
container type from a stored relationship between  
20 container types and heights.

3. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1 or  
claim 2, which further comprises means for detecting the  
surface of liquid in said first container, wherein said  
automatic analyzer moves said pipetting probe down to  
25 said preset position, temporarily stops said probe there,  
starts said liquid surface detecting means, and immerses  
said probe into the liquid while detecting the liquid  
surface.

4. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1 to claim 3, wherein said pipeting probe moves down to said preset position more quickly than said pipeting probe moves down after temporarily stopping.

5        5. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1 to claim 4, wherein said preset position is up to 2 mm high above the upper end of said first container.

10       6. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1 to claim 5, wherein said pipeting probe temporarily stops for a time period of 100 ms to 1000 ms.

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